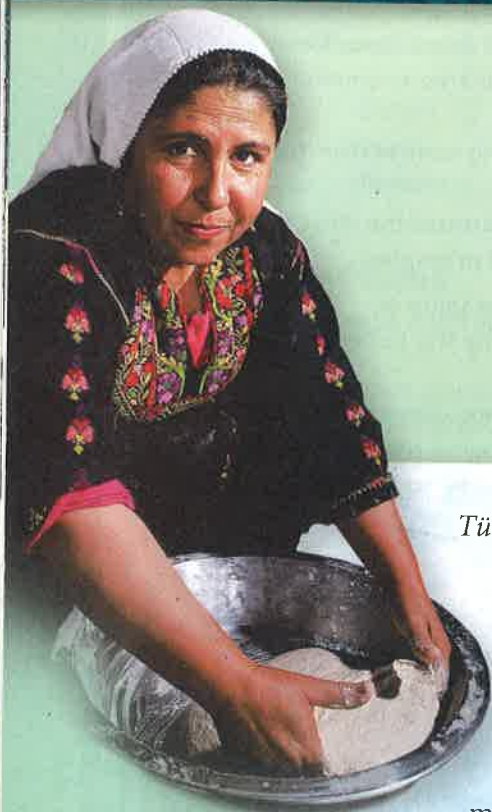


CHAPTER 20

The Eastern Mediterranean



Bedouin woman
from Israel



Complex relationships among geography, history, and religion are typical in the eastern Mediterranean region. All of the region's countries have been involved in conflicts both long ago and in recent years.

Türkiye'den selamlar! (Greetings from Turkey!) My name is Adalet, and I am in the tenth grade at a private school in Ankara, the capital of Turkey. I live in a high-rise apartment outside the city with my mom and dad. We have a view of the city, the distant mountains, and, of course, the parking lot. In the summers, I like to stay with my grandparents in their summer house on the Aegean Sea, near the ancient Greek and Roman ruins at Ephesus. I go to the beach there with my friends and stay until sundown. Back at the house, my grandpa and grandma love to cook delicious Turkish food like *kofte*, a spicy ground lamb dish.

On school days I get up at 8:00 A.M., put on my school uniform, and eat cornflakes or bread and cheese. The parents of boys and girls in my neighborhood have hired a bus to take us to school. It is a big school that goes from first grade through high school with about 800 students per grade. I am studying biology, physics, algebra, geometry, history, Turkish, and English. The science and math classes (and the English class, of course) are taught in English, the others in Turkish. At lunch my friends and I go to a little food stand nearby and eat hot dogs or grilled lamb on a skewer with bread, tomatoes, onions, and peppers. To drink, we have *ayran*, a drink made with yogurt.



Pitcher from Syria

Natural Environments

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What landforms and rivers are found in the eastern Mediterranean region?
2. What climates, biomes, and natural resources does the region have?

WHY IT MATTERS

In 2000 a new reservoir threatened to submerge important historical sites in Turkey. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about the many ways that dams and reservoirs affect places around the world.

DEFINE

potash
magnesium

LOCATE

Anatolia	Jordan River
Dardanelles	Dead Sea
Bosporus	Tigris River
Sea of Marmara	Euphrates River
Pontic Mountains	Syrian Desert
Taurus Mountains	Negev



The Eastern Mediterranean: Physical-Political



internet connect

GO TO: go.hrw.com

KEYWORD: SW3 CH20

FOR: For Web sites about the eastern Mediterranean



Landforms and Rivers

The eastern Mediterranean region is part of an area often called the Middle East. It consists of six countries. Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey are on the mainland. Cyprus is an island in the Mediterranean Sea.

The region lies on two continents. A small part of Turkey is on Europe's Balkan Peninsula. Most of Turkey is in Asia, an area known as Anatolia (a-nuh-TOH-lee-uh). Three narrow connected bodies of water—the Dardanelles (dahrd-uhn-ELZ), the Bosphorus, and the Sea of Marmara (MAHR-muh-ruh)—separate Europe from Asia.

European Turkey has plains and hills. A narrow coastal plain rims the western edge of the Asian part of Turkey. Two mountain systems run from east to west across Anatolia. They include the Pontic Mountains in the north and the Taurus Mountains in the south. Between them lies the Anatolian Plateau, which has many peaks and valleys of its own. Turkey's geology includes many faults and folds. Along with continued mountain building, these geological features also cause devastating earthquakes.

The coastal plain continues south from Turkey along the coasts of Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. Farther inland one finds plateaus, hills, and valleys. A rift valley extends northward from Africa into Syria. Hills rise on both sides of the rift. Between the rift's ridges the Jordan River flows south into the Dead Sea. This unusual sea lies 1,312 feet (400 m) below sea level. Its shore is the lowest land on Earth's surface. The Dead Sea was once part of the Mediterranean. Today it no longer has an outlet to the ocean. The sea is so salty that all swimmers can easily float in it.

The Tigris and Euphrates are the region's major rivers. Both rivers begin in the mountains of eastern Anatolia and empty into the Persian Gulf. Along with the Jordan River, the Tigris and Euphrates are important sources of irrigation water.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Physical Systems* Why does Turkey have many earthquakes?

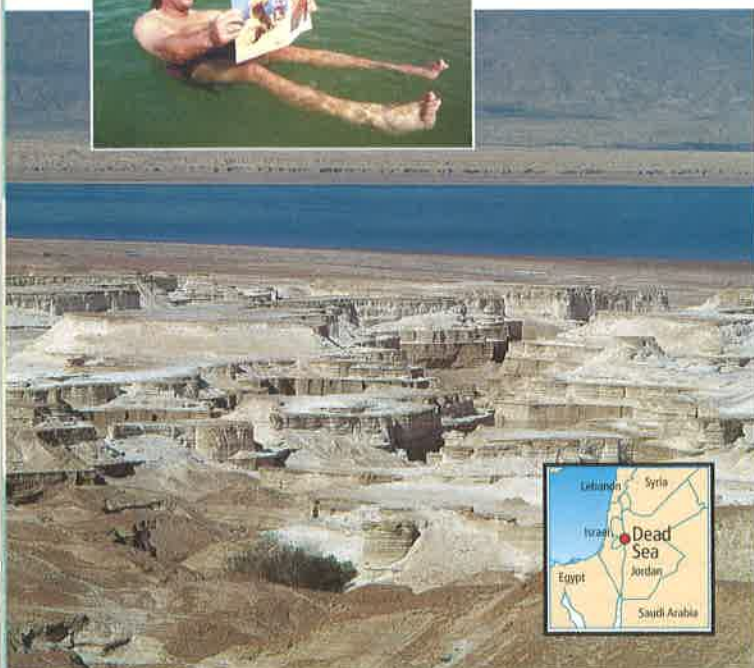
INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Top: A tourist floats in the Dead Sea.

Bottom: The Dead Sea lies in a desert valley. The shoreline has receded nearly a mile in the last 40 years. Only 10 percent of the Jordan River's water flows into the sea.

Growing populations and drought conditions place heavy demands on the Jordan.

How might a shrinking Dead Sea affect the area's economy?



Climates, Biomes, and Natural Resources

Arid, semiarid, and Mediterranean climates cover nearly all of the eastern Mediterranean. Distance from the sea, elevation, and rain shadows affect rainfall and temperatures. For example, like the nearby Greek islands, Turkey's Mediterranean coast has a mild and sunny climate. However, eastern Turkey and the Anatolian interior lie inland. They are also at higher elevations. Therefore, they experience bitterly cold winters, and heavy snowstorms are common.

Evergreen forests once covered much of the eastern Mediterranean's highlands. Lebanon, in particular, was famous for its great cedar trees. Areas of forested land still exist in Cyprus, where cedar, cypress, and pine are common. Forests have largely disappeared elsewhere.



Forests of magnificent cedar trees were once common in Lebanon. In fact, the cedar is pictured on Lebanon's flag. However, people began cutting down the big trees long ago. Now few remnants of the great forests remain, but reforestation efforts are underway.

however. They are victims of centuries of farming, herding, shipbuilding, and firewood collecting that began more than 2,000 years ago.

In semiard areas like Anatolia, plant and animal life can be diverse. Farther south, the Syrian Desert covers much of both Jordan and Syria. Another desert, the Negev (NE-gev), lies in southern Israel. In desert biome areas, plant and animal life is scarce. Yet some hardy species, such as jackals, lizards, and snakes, are able to survive. People also live in the desert. Small groups of nomads move their flocks of sheep and goats with the seasons.

Valuable mineral and other natural resources can be found throughout the region. Turkey has supplies of coal, copper, and iron ore. Some oil and natural gas deposits are distributed across the region. The Dead Sea also provides Israel and Jordan with certain minerals, including **potash** and **magnesium**. Potash is used to process wool and to make fertilizers, glass, and soft soaps. Magnesium is a light metal that is valuable in certain industries, such as aerospace.

READING CHECK: *Places and Regions* Why do eastern Turkey and the Anatolian interior have cold winters?



In the Cappadocia region of central Turkey, volcanic rock has eroded into an unusual landscape of columns, cones, pillars, and towers. People carved into the rock to create shelters. Some of the caves are now homes, stores, and churches.



Review

Define
potash
magnesium

Working with Sketch Maps

On a map of the eastern Mediterranean that you draw or that your teacher provides, label Anatolia, Dardanelles, Bosphorus, Sea of Marmara, Pontic Mountains, Taurus Mountains, Jordan River, Dead Sea, Tigris River, Euphrates River, Syrian Desert, and the Negev. What parts of the region would you expect to be densely populated?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Places and Regions** What are the main landforms of Turkey? Which two major rivers begin in Turkey?
- Physical Systems** What has happened to the region's evergreen forests?
- Physical Systems** What factors affect rainfall and temperatures in the region?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Why might the Dead Sea be considered a natural resource?

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Homework Practice Online

Keyword: SW3 HP20

Organizing What You Know

- Create a chart that lists the countries in the region and the different landforms found in each. Refer back to Section 1 and the chapter's physical-political map.

Country	Landforms

CASE STUDY

Palestine—Setting Boundaries

Human Systems

Perhaps one of the most persistent themes in human history has been the struggle over territory. Today the world is divided into almost 200 countries. As you read in Chapter 6, a variety of boundaries separate these countries. Some are natural boundaries, such as mountains and rivers. Others are cultural boundaries. The border between mostly Hindu India and mostly Muslim Pakistan is an example of a cultural boundary. Finally, some boundaries are geometric, such as lines of latitude.

Sometimes the competing desires of two or more peoples to control a piece of land have been settled peacefully. However, such disputes have also led to war. The reasons for this are many. They are often cultural, reflecting the strong ties a particular people have to a place. They can also be economic, reflecting the desire for the natural resources found in an area. Both of these factors have played a part in the long Arab-Israeli conflict.

Conflict and Cooperation

Palestine is an old Greek name for the eastern edge of the Mediterranean. It includes the modern country of Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. For Jews and Arabs there alike, Palestine is the land of their ancestors. It is also home to many historical and cultural sites held sacred by millions of people. Many of the

A Palestinian woman pumps water from an aquifer. Control of water resources is a primary source of conflict in the West Bank.



An Israeli soldier patrols a Jewish settlement in Hebron. The West Bank town has been the scene of many clashes between Palestinians and Jews.

most important sites are located in Jerusalem. (See *Cities & Settlements: Jerusalem.*)

Hundreds of thousands of Arabs left Palestine after Israel declared independence in 1948. Most settled in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and neighboring Arab countries such as Jordan. Threatened by surrounding Arab armies, Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the so-called Six-Day War in 1967. Many Israelis thought that having control over these territories was vital to their country's security. Arabs demanded that the Israelis withdraw. The dispute over the territories grew more heated and violent over time.

In the 1990s Israel's government and Arab Palestinian leaders tried to end their long dispute through negotiation. They discussed many issues. Among them was how to draw a boundary between Israel and any new Palestinian state in the occupied territories. The two sides made significant progress. In fact, over time Israel returned parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Palestinian control. However, the talks between Israelis and Palestinians bogged down in 2000. Later that year, violence again erupted, taking many lives.

Aquifers

West Bank



INTERPRETING THE MAPS The debate over new boundaries between Israel and a possible new Palestinian country involves a number of issues. Control of water resources in the dry region is one of them. Aquifers extend across the region. New boundaries will determine who controls the water stored in these aquifers. The West Bank would become part of the new country of Palestine. The detailed map of the West Bank shows current and planned Israeli settlements as well as areas of Palestinian control. Why do you think establishing stable borders around Israeli settlements might be difficult? How might Israelis and Palestinians compromise over control of the region's aquifers?

mostly from the West Bank, supplies much of the aquifer's water. However, much of that stored water lies on the Israeli side of the aquifer. Agreement over access to the aquifer and the use of its water has been difficult to reach. In addition, Israel wanted to control land along the Jordan River, another important water source. This land would also act as a buffer zone between the West Bank and Jordan, an Arab country.

To the north the Sea of Galilee presented a similar problem. The Sea of Galilee lies along the old border between Israel and Syria. However, in the 1967 war Israel captured a Syrian area that included part of the freshwater sea's shore. In addition, springs in the area replenish the sea. Syria has demanded that Israel withdraw from this land before agreeing to a final peace treaty. However, Israelis fear that doing so would limit their supply of water from the sea.

These issues have long divided Israelis and their Arab neighbors. Until they are resolved, new boundaries dividing their countries will remain in question.

Working toward Compromise

Many issues divided Israelis and Palestinians when the talks bogged down in 2000. Three primary issues involved Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, the status of Jerusalem, and access to water.

The settlement issue is a result of Israel's government allowing Jewish settlers to set up communities in the occupied territories. Today these settlements are scattered between Palestinian-controlled lands in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The two sides cannot agree on what to do with those settlements.

Another issue is control of Jerusalem. The city had been divided between Israel and Jordan from 1948 to 1967. It was reunited under Israeli rule during the 1967 war. Jerusalem is a difficult issue because Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religious sites are found there. In addition, both Israelis and Palestinians want the city as their capital.

Finally, water is an issue. This dry region has limited water supplies. Aquifers are a crucial water source. One large aquifer straddles the dividing line between Israel and the West Bank. Mountain rainfall,

Applying What You Know

- Summarizing** What are some of the issues that make agreement over new boundaries between Israel and a Palestinian state difficult to reach?
- Comparing** Why might both Israelis and Palestinians want Jerusalem as their capital? What kind of compromise do you think might settle this issue?

Section 2

History and Culture

READ TO DISCOVER

1. How have various peoples and empires influenced the eastern Mediterranean?
2. How did the modern state of Israel develop?
3. What are the peoples and cultures of the region like?

WHY IT MATTERS

Many people go to Israel to visit places important to Christianity, Islam, or Judaism. Use cnnfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about those sites.

IDENTIFY

Zionism Kurds
Holocaust

DEFINE

sultans
mandates

LOCATE

Istanbul Jerusalem
Ankara Nicosia



The Phoenicians were an early seafaring people from what is now Lebanon. Although their homeland was small, they traded as far as Spain and may even have sailed around Africa.

The Rise and Fall of Empires

Some of history's earliest civilizations developed in the eastern Mediterranean region. Farming supported the growth of permanent settlements as far back as 8000 B.C. Over time, the Egyptians, the Hittites of Asia Minor, the Persians, and others ruled all or parts of the region. In about 1000 B.C. a people called the Hebrews set up a kingdom between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. That area has been known as Palestine and Israel at different times. The Hebrews practiced Judaism, which is the dominant religion in Israel today.

The Roman and Byzantine Empires The Romans conquered the eastern Mediterranean between 200 B.C. and A.D. 106. During this time, most Jews were exiled from Palestine because they resisted Roman authority. In the first century A.D., followers of Christianity began to spread their beliefs from the eastern Mediterranean throughout the Roman Empire. By the late 300s Christianity was the empire's official religion.

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

These gigantic heads at Nemrud Dag, now in eastern Turkey, are more than 2,000 years old. They lie in what was the kingdom of Commagene, where Greek, Persian, and Roman influences mixed. How do you think physical geography contributed to the combination of cultural influences at Commagene?



During the A.D. 400s the Western Roman Empire crumbled. The eastern part of the empire survived, however, and came to be known as the Byzantine (BIZ-uhn-teen) Empire. Christianity also became divided. The Eastern Orthodox Church broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. Constantinople—now İstanbul—was both the center of the Orthodox Church and the capital of the Byzantine Empire. It became a city of great beauty, power, and wealth. The Byzantine Empire ruled most of the eastern Mediterranean as well as areas far beyond the region. However, other peoples soon invaded, shrinking the empire.

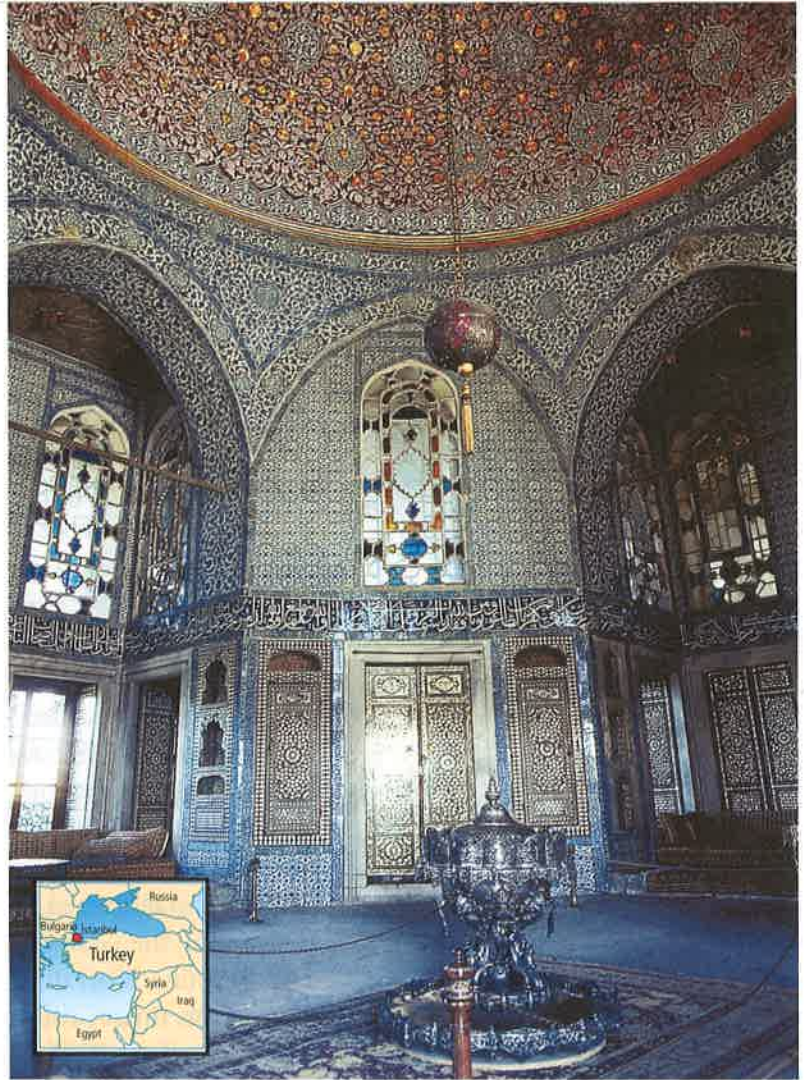
The Arabs and Islam In the A.D. 600s Arab Muslim armies swept north out of the Arabian desert. They rapidly established an empire in southwestern Asia and northern Africa. The Byzantines lost much territory as a result, including the area that is now Israel.

Turkic Muslims captured Jerusalem from the Arabs in 1077. When Turks threatened Constantinople, the pope called for Christians to go to war against the Muslims. This series of wars was known as the Crusades. Between 1095 and the late 1200s, crusader armies from all over Europe invaded the region. For a while, the Crusaders held Jerusalem and some cities in Syria. However, Muslim armies later forced them out.

The Ottoman Empire In the 1300s the Ottoman Turks established another Muslim empire in the region. The Ottoman rulers were called **sultans**. They took Constantinople in 1453 and made it the Ottoman capital. By the 1600s the Ottoman Empire included most of Southwest Asia. The empire also stretched into parts of eastern Europe and most of North Africa. However, political struggles, corruption, and rivalries with other countries slowly weakened the empire. Over time ethnic minorities within the empire's borders also began to push for independence.

During World War I the Ottoman Empire fought on the losing side. After the war, a general named Mustafa Kemal (later known as Atatürk) took over the government. He created the Republic of Turkey and established its capital at Ankara. Beyond Turkey, the former Ottoman territories became **mandates** of Great Britain and France. These mandates were territories placed under another country's control. They were to become independent eventually. The British and French mandates included Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. After World War II these mandates gained independence. However, as you will see, a major dispute arose in Palestine.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How have different empires shaped the eastern Mediterranean region?



Ottoman sultans lived in the Topkapi Palace from when it was built in the 1400s until the 1800s. It is a huge complex of courtyards, gates, and rooms. The Topkapi Palace Museum is now one of İstanbul's main tourist attractions.

Palestine and Modern Israel

In the late 1800s European Jews began a movement called **Zionism**. Zionism called for Jews to set up their own country or homeland in Palestine, which was then under Ottoman rule. That land had traditionally been important to Jewish culture, history, and religion. After World War I thousands of Jews moved to the area, which became a British mandate in 1920. Later, many Jews who were fleeing persecution in Europe immigrated to Palestine. In fact, during World War II, Germany's Nazis murdered millions of Jews in what became known as the **Holocaust**. As a result, Jewish immigration to Palestine increased during the 1930s and 1940s. Arabs already living in Palestine soon felt threatened and became angry at the growing Jewish presence there. Today Jews make up about 80 percent of Israel's population. Most of the rest are Arab.

In 1947 the United Nations voted to divide Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. When the British withdrew from Palestine the next year, the Jewish leadership declared itself the independent state of Israel. Arab armies from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan (then called Transjordan), Lebanon, and Syria then invaded Israel. Israel pushed the Arab forces back and won more land. Many Palestinian Arabs fled to Jordan, Lebanon, and other Arab countries. At the same time, Jordan and Egypt took over the remaining Arab portions of Palestine. More wars between Arabs and Israelis occurred in 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982. During the 1967 war, Israel gained Arab land west of the Jordan River, called the West Bank. It also took the Gaza Strip, a small piece of land on the Mediterranean coast. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) became a force in the region around this time. Groups that wanted to establish an independent Palestinian state formed the PLO in 1964 to coordinate their efforts. Violent conflict between Palestinians and Israelis has continued despite efforts toward peace.

Jewish settlement in the occupied lands has slowed those efforts. Thousands of Jews have moved into the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jewish settlement has also been an issue in the Golan Heights. Israel took that hilly region from Syria in the 1967 war. Many Israelis do not want to give up these areas. They think the occupied lands are important to the security of Israel. From the Golan, Israeli troops can guard the Jordan River, a crucial water

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Israeli soldiers patrol the West Bank. From the photo, how can you tell that some of the West Bank's residents have adopted aspects of Western culture, while others maintain traditional ways?



source. The Golan also blocks Syrian access to northern Israel. In addition, the West Bank separates Israel from Jordan and Arab countries to the east. Resolving the problem of the occupied lands remains an important foreign policy issue. (For more information on these issues, see Case Study: Palestine—Setting Boundaries.)

READING CHECK: *Human Systems* Why did many Jews immigrate to Palestine during the 1930s and 1940s?

Culture

Language in this region is often an important part of an ethnic group's identity. The many languages spoken there reflect the area's many cultural influences. Arabic, Hebrew, and Turkish are the most common languages. Britain and France introduced English and French when they ruled the area in the 1900s. Many Jews immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union in the 1990s, bringing the Russian language with them. The **Kurds**, who live mainly in southeastern Turkey and neighboring countries, make up Turkey's largest minority. They have their own Kurdish language.



FOCUS ON CULTURE

Reviving a Language Hebrew was spoken in the region more than 2,000 years ago. Hebrew is the language of the Jewish Bible, or Torah. In addition, it has always been the language of Jewish prayer and religious ceremonies. Scholars of Jewish law and literature also used Hebrew. The language was not used by most Jews in daily life, however. The rebirth of Hebrew began among Jewish immigrants to what is now Israel. They developed a more modern form of the language. When Israel became independent in 1948, Hebrew became an official language. New immigrants to Israel start on the road to citizenship by learning Hebrew. Arabic is the official language for Israel's Arab minority.

READING CHECK: *Human Systems* How do Israel's two official languages reflect the region's distinctive history?

Religion Most people in the eastern Mediterranean are Muslim, Jewish, or Christian. All of the faiths are monotheistic, or based on the belief in one God. Judaism was the first of the three to develop. Its roots date back to about 2600 B.C. Today most Jews in the eastern Mediterranean live in Israel.

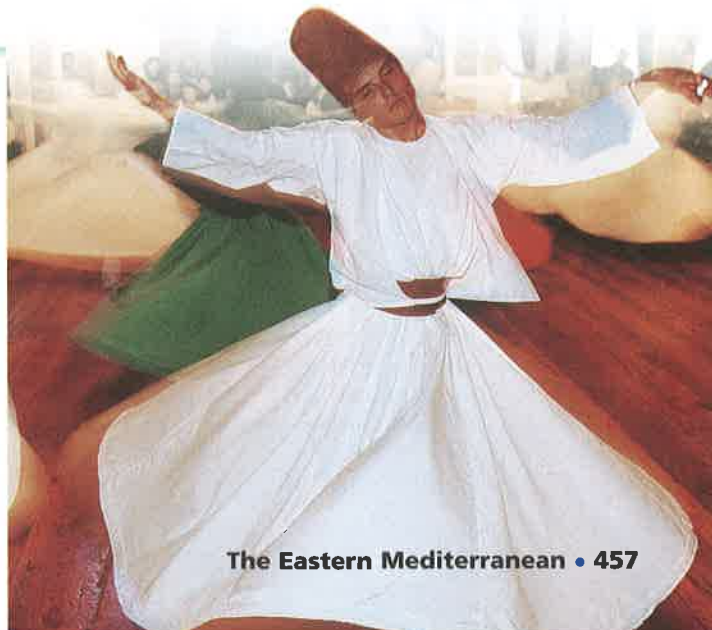
Christianity developed out of Judaism and spread during the Roman era. Today there are significant Christian minorities in most countries of the region, particularly in Lebanon and Syria. Muslims form the majority in all countries of the eastern Mediterranean except Israel.



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Seeing Hebrew used in public daily life would have amazed Jews a hundred years ago. For centuries the language was used only in religious and scholarly contexts. What evidence of cultural convergence do you see on this street sign?

In Istanbul, this Muslim mystic, or dervish, seeks spiritual perfection by whirling.





These nomadic herders are spending the winter in the mountains of Lebanon. The nomadic way of life is becoming less common. Many nomads are moving to towns to look for work or settling on government-owned land.

Settlement People in the eastern Mediterranean often live in communities of similar cultural backgrounds. In fact, most of the major cities have different sections that were historically occupied by particular ethnic or religious groups. For example, Jerusalem was divided into Armenian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim quarters. (See *Cities & Settlements: Jerusalem.*)

A division has occurred in modern times on Cyprus. A line runs all the way across the island. Greek Cypriots live south of the line, while Turkish Cypriots live north of it. (See *Geography for Life: Cyprus—A Divided Island.*)

Traditions and Customs Members of the same ethnic group may follow different religions. For example, Christian Arabs share the Arabic language and literature of Islamic Arabs. Yet they maintain their separate religious identity. In contrast, members of the same religion may belong to various ethnic groups. For example, the region's Muslims—whether Arabs, Kurds, or Turks—share many traditions. Turks and Kurds, while Islamic, are distinct from Arabs in their language and culture.

Cultural divisions also separate Turkey's urban and rural populations. Middle-class Turks tend to share the lifestyle and attitudes of middle-class Europeans. However, most rural Turks have more traditional views, such as those concerning the role of women. They prefer that women work as homemakers.

Jewish religious law influences Israel's traditions and customs. For example, because Saturday is the weekly holy day in Judaism, most Israeli businesses are closed on that day. Although most Israelis practice Judaism, Israel is also multiethnic because Jews have emigrated there from all over the world. Many of these immigrants have come from Germany, Russia, and other European countries. Others are from North Africa and Southwest Asia. Israel also has a large number of Jews from Ethiopia.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How does religion shape cultural patterns in the region?



Review



Identify

Zionism
Holocaust
Kurds

Define

sultans
mandates

Working with Sketch Maps

On the map you created in Section 1, label the countries of the eastern Mediterranean and Istanbul, Ankara, Jerusalem, and Nicosia. Which of these four cities is in both Europe and Asia?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Human Systems** What are some cultural features that Christian Arabs share with Muslim Arabs?
- Human Systems** Why is Israel's population so multiethnic?

Critical Thinking

- Drawing Inferences** Why do many Israelis oppose giving up the occupied lands and their Jewish settlements there? What might Palestinians and other Arabs offer in return for those lands?

- Identifying Cause and Effect** Why do many people in the eastern Mediterranean speak Arabic?

Organizing What You Know

- Create a time line like the one shown below. Enlarge the section between A.D. 1 and Today. On your time line, list important years, periods, and events in the history of the eastern Mediterranean.



Geography for Life

Cyprus—A Divided Island

Cyprus lies in the Mediterranean Sea near Turkey. About 78 percent of its 763,000 people speak Greek and share a Greek heritage. Turkish Cypriots make up 18 percent of the population. Conflict between these groups marks the island's modern history.

Greeks have lived on Cyprus for at least 3,000 years. Turks later took over the island in the 1500s. Cyprus then came under British control in 1878. In 1960 Cyprus became an independent republic. Not long afterward, Turkish and Greek Cypriots clashed over sharing power in the new government. In addition, the Turkish Cypriots feared that the Greek Cypriots would join Cyprus to Greece. Fighting soon broke out. In 1964 the United Nations sent a peacekeeping force to Cyprus. In 1974 Turkey invaded and took control of the northern 40 percent of the island. Refugees—both Greek and Turkish—fled to the south. In 1983 Turkish Cypriots declared the northern territory an independent country—the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). No other country besides Turkey recognizes the TRNC. All other governments recognize Cyprus as a single country with a Greek Cypriot government.

Cyprus remains a divided island. A buffer zone called the Green Line separates Turkish Cyprus from Greek Cyprus.

Nicosia, the capital of both Greek and Turkish Cyprus, lies along this line in the island's center.

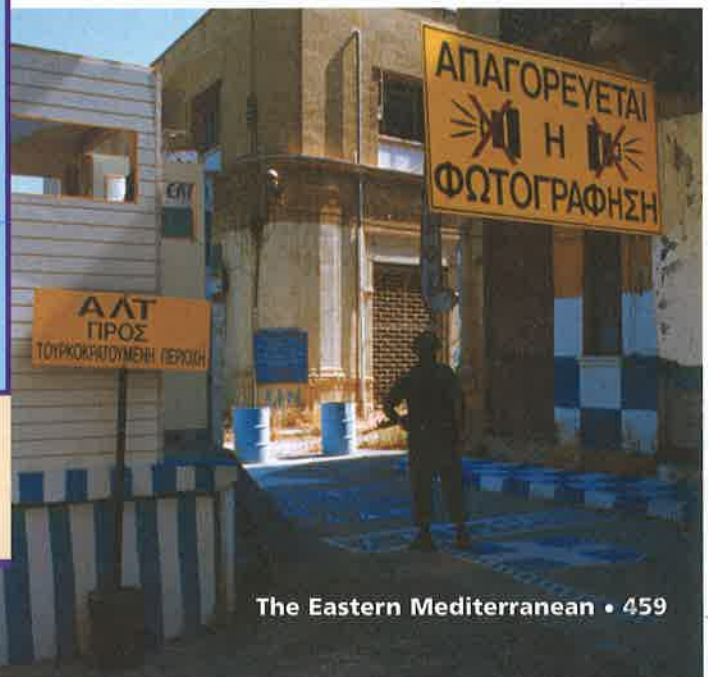
Thousands of Turkish troops occupy northern Cyprus. Most countries refuse to trade with that region. As a result, the north must depend on aid from Turkey. However, the south has received help from Great Britain, Greece, the United States, and the United Nations. This aid has made construction of new businesses, housing, port facilities, and roads possible. Funds from other countries also allowed southern Cyprus to expand tourist facilities at its beaches and mountain resorts. The Greek state of Cyprus is also on a fast track for membership in the European Union. Greek Cypriots hope to unify the island and resettle Greeks in the north. Northern Turkish Cypriots, with backing from Turkey, still want two separate states.

Applying What You Know

- Summarizing** What are two reasons why Greek Cypriots might feel that the Turks should give up their claims to the island?
- Identifying Points of View** How do Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot views of the island differ?



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD In the photo, a member of the Cyprus National Guard patrols the Green Line in Nicosia. The blue and white paint echoes the colors of the Greek flag. Why might both the Turkish and Greek Cypriots want Nicosia for their capital?



The Region Today

READ TO DISCOVER

1. On what activities do the eastern Mediterranean economies rely?
2. What are the cities of the region like?
3. What challenges do the people of the region face?

WHY IT MATTERS

Recent developments have led to important changes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to learn about the latest news from those areas.

DEFINE

souks
secular

LOCATE

Tel Aviv
Haifa
Damascus
Beirut



A Turkish carpet seller displays his wares. Turkey's national government plays a major role in basic industries such as mining, but the textile and clothing industries are almost entirely in private hands.

Economic Development

Many factors have slowed the economic development of the eastern Mediterranean. For example, the land itself has caused problems for Turkey. Earthquakes there have interrupted its economic growth. Political problems are more widespread. Hostile relations between Israel and its neighbors have prevented the creation of normal economic links throughout the region. Also, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians live as refugees in other countries. Many live in Jordan and Lebanon. The resulting population increase has strained those countries' resources. At the same time, Israel has encouraged and absorbed waves of Jewish immigrants from other parts of the world. Lebanon and Cyprus have suffered devastating civil wars.

The economies of Syria and Jordan are underdeveloped and suffer from high unemployment. Lack of resources, a weak educational system, and an outdated technological base add to their problems. Jordan receives foreign aid from the United States and oil-producing Arab countries like Saudi Arabia. Israel also trades heavily with the United States and receives U.S. aid.

Agriculture The eastern Mediterranean economies rely heavily on agriculture. In many places farming requires irrigation. Most irrigation systems used in the region are simply small canals that allow water to run directly to the fields. Some of these systems use fossil water. Large-scale irrigation depends on the major rivers. Turkey is building a network of dams and irrigation canals on the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Neighboring countries Syria and Iraq resent these projects, however. This is because the projects reduce the amount of water downstream that is available to them.

Farmlands in Turkey's Mediterranean coastal valleys produce most of that country's crops. Livestock raising is common in Anatolia. Despite a lack of water, agriculture is productive in Israel as well. Careful irrigation makes growing fruits and vegetables possible in semiarid parts of the country.

Industry Israel is the most technologically advanced country in the eastern Mediterranean. The country has built much of its economy on high-tech industries. Diamond cutting is another major Israeli industry. Most diamond-cutting factories can be found in the Tel Aviv area. Polished diamonds are the country's leading export. Israel also has important chemical industries centered in the port city of Haifa. Turkey's industry is the second-most developed in the region. Textiles are Turkey's leading industry. The country's industrial sector includes modern urban factories and small-scale industries in rural areas.

Tourism Tourism is a major industry for the eastern Mediterranean. In Cyprus, tourists flock to beaches along the island's southern coast. Tourists come to Turkey to see Greek and Roman ruins, Ottoman palaces, and busy carpet markets. Many who travel to Israel want to visit religious sites, such as those in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, or float in the salty Dead Sea. However, the region's continuing unrest makes the tourist industry fragile. Israel's economy can handle a drop in tourism because it is well diversified. Other countries like Jordan, however, suffer when tourism slows.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How do the economies of Israel and Turkey differ from those of Jordan and Syria?

Urban Environments

The urban population of the eastern Mediterranean is growing rapidly. The region's high birth rates and migration from rural areas have fueled this growth. Many cities are crowded. Housing tends to be small and cramped, and traffic congestion and smog get worse every year.

Many of the cities in the eastern Mediterranean are ancient. In fact, Damascus, Syria, is probably the oldest city in the world. These old cities' centers usually consist of twisting narrow streets where traditional craftspeople sell their wares. Open-air markets called **souks** are also common. In many of



Israeli workers cut and polish diamonds. Israel's diamond industry is one of the largest in the world and accounts for about 25 percent of the country's export earnings.

The Gaza Strip is a small, crowded piece of coastal land that has practically no resources. More than a million Palestinians live there.



Petra

Petra, a desert city built about 2,000 years ago by an Arab people, is Jordan's main tourist attraction. It features huge buildings cut directly into the cliffs. How could this city of 30,000 people thrive in the desert? Protecting the water supply was crucial. Petra's builders installed canals, terraces, and hundreds of underground storage tanks to collect and store the area's scant rainfall. Dams in the nearby hills caught the water from flash floods after rare downpours. This water conservation system is the hidden marvel of Petra.

When the caravans were routed away from Petra, the city began to decline. Earthquakes did further damage. Neglecting the water storage system, which filled with sand, probably sealed the city's fate.

Problem Solving How might further study of Petra's water system affect public policy in Jordan?



Top: A water channel at Petra
Bottom: Petra's Royal Tombs

these markets, shops that sell the same items are clustered together. For example, vendors on Jerusalem's Christian Quarter Road specialize in religious souvenirs and Palestinian textiles. Typically, the newer parts of the city surround the old center. Most service-oriented business and government offices are in the newer areas.

War has damaged some cities, including Nicosia, Cyprus, and Beirut, Lebanon. In its better days Beirut had been called the Paris of the Middle East for its culture, glamour, and scenery. In recent years, Lebanon's government has worked hard to rebuild Beirut's center, making it a thriving and modern commercial zone. People there hope this rebuilding will help the country's economy recover from years of warfare.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* How are the centers of eastern Mediterranean cities often different from the areas that surround them?

Issues and Challenges

The countries of the eastern Mediterranean face many issues and challenges. The most pressing of these are political ones. However, social and environmental problems also threaten stability.

One long-term challenge is the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the early 1990s the Israeli government began talks with the PLO. They agreed that the Palestinians would get control of parts of the West Bank and most of the Gaza Strip. However, the process has not been completed. Demonstrations, riots, and violence continue, and the future of the peace process remains uncertain.

Other ethnic and religious conflicts trouble other parts of the region. In Turkey, Armenian and Kurd minorities complain of unfair treatment by the government. Turkey's Kurds identify strongly with Kurds living in Iran, Iraq, and Syria. Some Kurds have fought for independence from Turkey. Thousands of people have been killed as a result





INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Students debate issues related to religious law at a Jerusalem yeshiva—a school for the study of Jewish traditions. The role of religion in public life is a source of conflict between Jews and Arabs and among Jews. For example, many ultra-Orthodox Jews refuse to celebrate Israel's independence day because they feel the country is too secular. **What are some aspects of religion in Israel that make the country distinctive?**



of this struggle. In addition, Islamic fundamentalists in Turkey have objected to the country's **secular**, or nonreligious, political system. That criticism has turned violent at times. On the other side of the issue, the Turkish government has been criticized for limiting the religious freedom of Muslims.

As you read earlier, United Nations troops have tried to keep the peace between ethnic Greeks and ethnic Turks in Cyprus. In Lebanon a civil war among several different religious militias broke out in 1975. Christians belonging to various factions fought several Muslim groups. Fighting there lasted for 15 years. Jordan is divided between “original” Jordanians and Palestinian refugees. These Palestinians now make up a slight majority of Jordan's population. Many still live in refugee camps, where health care and other social services are poor.

The eastern Mediterranean's main environmental concern is a lack of water. Droughts, a growing population, and pollution all threaten the limited freshwater of the region. Also, overgrazing has damaged semiarid grasslands in parts of Jordan and Syria.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** Why might some Kurds want Turkey to change its boundaries?



Review

Define souks, secular

Working with Sketch Maps On the map you created in Section 2, label Tel Aviv, Haifa, Damascus, and Beirut. Which city is rebuilding after a civil war?

Reading for the Main Idea

1. **Environment and Society** Why do some other countries resent Turkey's proposed dam and irrigation system?
2. **Human Systems** What factors have fueled the rapid growth of cities in the region?
3. **Environment and Society** What problems threaten the region's scarce freshwater supplies?



Critical Thinking

4. **Analyzing Information** In what ways does the relationship between Israel and the Palestinians affect the rest of the region?

Organizing What You Know

5. Create a word web in which you describe Israel's agriculture, cities, industry, and the challenges it faces.

CITIES & SETTLEMENTS

Jerusalem

Human Systems Jerusalem is one of the world's oldest cities and is deeply sacred for three major world religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Christians honor the city as the place where Jesus preached, died, and rose again. The city has long been a center of culture and faith for Jews. Muslims believe that from the site Muhammad departed on a spiritual journey through the skies.

During Jerusalem's 5,000 year history, many groups have fought to control the city. In fact, it has been captured and occupied more than 36 times over the centuries. Even today, control of Jerusalem is central to disputes between the Israelis and Palestinians.

An Ancient and Sacred City

About 1000 B.C. King David ruled the Israelites from the city of Hebron. However, the king wanted a more centrally located capital from which he could further unite the tribes of Israel. This desire led him to seize the fortress of Zion from the Jebusites and found a new city, Jerusalem, there. When the king moved the sacred Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, the city became the religious center of Israel. David's son, King Solomon, expanded the city and built the Temple Mount, into which the Ark was placed.

In 586 B.C. the Babylonians captured Jerusalem and destroyed Solomon's temple. Although it was later rebuilt, the Romans destroyed it again in A.D. 70. All that remains of the temple today is a high wall on the western edge of the Temple Mount. This Western Wall—sometimes called the Wailing Wall—is the holiest place in Judaism. Each day people go to the wall to pray. They place slips of paper with prayers



A Jewish man prays at Jerusalem's Western Wall, also called the Wailing Wall.

written on them between the narrow cracks in the wall.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the most sacred shrine of Christianity, is also located in Jerusalem. Completed about A.D. 335 by the Roman emperor Constantine, it occupies the site where Christians believe Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected. Thousands of Christian pilgrims visit the church each year and retrace "the Way of the Cross" through Jerusalem's narrow streets.

Arab Muslims captured Jerusalem in the early A.D. 600s. In the late 600s they built a mosque on the Temple Mount to house the rock from which they believe

Muhammad ascended to the heavens. Known as the Dome of the Rock, it is one of Islam's holiest sites. Some Jews believe the rock may also be the foundation stone on which the Ark of the Covenant rested in its ancient temple. Some even want to rebuild the temple. However, that could not be done without destroying the Dome of the Rock and other sacred Islamic sites on the Temple Mount. Conflicts like this over space sacred to different religions are common in Jerusalem.

The Modern City

Jerusalem is located on hills overlooking the Jordan River valley. In the heart of Jerusalem lies the Old City, the most ancient part of the city. Walls surround the Old City, which is separated into four quarters. These are the Armenian Quarter, Christian Quarter, Jewish Quarter, and Muslim Quarter. Each quarter contains religious buildings and houses for the members of its community.

In the 1860s the first settlements were built outside the walls of the Old City. Today more than

The Old City of Jerusalem



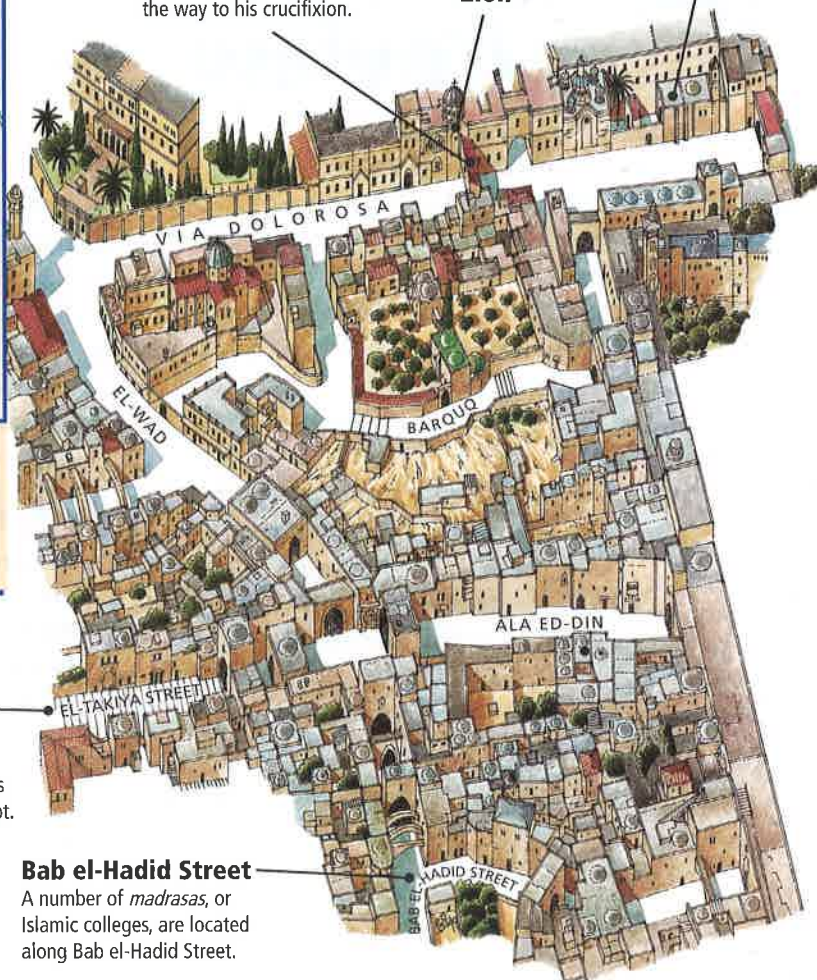
INTERPRETING THE MAP The Old City of Jerusalem is divided into four quarters. Part of the Muslim Quarter is pictured at the right. How is the city's plan related to its political and historical characteristics?

Ecce Homo Arch

The arch spans the Via Dolorosa, a street that follows the path Christians believe Jesus took on the way to his crucifixion.

Convent of the Sisters of Zion

Monastery of the Flagellation



El-Takiya Street

Examples of Mameluke architecture can be found along this narrow stepped street. The Mamelukes were Islamic rulers who once controlled the region from Egypt.

Bab el-Hadid Street

A number of *madrasas*, or Islamic colleges, are located along Bab el-Hadid Street.

600,000 people live in Jerusalem, most outside its ancient walls. Many of Jerusalem's newer neighborhoods lie to the west and north. Commercial and government centers are also located west of the Old City.

About one third of Jerusalem's residents are Palestinian Arabs. Most live in East Jerusalem. The remaining two thirds of the population are mostly Jews, and many live in West Jerusalem. Neighborhood divisions throughout the city are often based on religious practices and preferences. For example, Arab East Jerusalem includes both Muslim and Christian neighborhoods. In West Jerusalem some communities are organized according to how strictly the residents practice Judaism.

When the modern state of Israel was established in 1948, Jerusalem was divided into Israeli and Jordanian sectors. Israel captured the entire city during the Six-Day War in 1967. Since then, Israel's gov-

ernment has controlled all of Jerusalem, including mostly Arab East Jerusalem. This has become a major political issue as Israelis and Palestinians struggle to make peace. Both sides consider Jerusalem a sacred city and want to control it. So far, negotiators have not been able to resolve this difficult issue.

Applying What You Know

- Summarizing** Why have Jews and Muslims sought control of Jerusalem for so long?
- Comparing and Contrasting** Recall what you learned about Mecca in Chapter 19. What are some similarities and differences in the religious importance of Mecca and Jerusalem? What other places have you studied that are also important religious centers?